

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 19940 221825Z  
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19940

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: TECH, FR  
SUBJECT: MORIN NAMED TO HEAD DGRST

1. FRENCH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS JUNE 14 NAMED ROLLAND MORIN TO HEAD THE DGRST (DELEGATION GENERALE A LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE AND TECHNIQUE, GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH). MORIN, DEPUTY HEAD OF DGRST SINCE 1974 HAS BEEN ACTING HEAD SINCE THE DEATH OF HIS PREDECESSOR, BERNARD GREGORY, ON CHRISTMAS DAY 1977. HE COMES FROM AN ADMINISTRATIVE RATHER THAN SCIENTIFIC BACKGROUND AND THUS BREAKS A TRADITION THAT HAS PREVAILED IN THAT ORGANIZATION SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1958. THE NEW DGRST DIRECTOR WAS BORN IN 1932 AND GRADUATED FROM THE PRESTIGIOUS

INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL STUDIES. HE STUDIED FURTHER IN THE FIELD OF POLITICAL ECONOMY AS WELL AS AT THE RENOWNED NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION, WHICH NUMBERS THE FRENCH PRESIDENT AMONG ITS MANY DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES.

2. WITH THE NOMINATION OF PIERRE AIGRAIN AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR RESEARCH, THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE GENERALLY IN THE GOF HAS INCREASED, BUT THE ROLE OF THE DGRST, AS WE SEE IT, IS GOING TO BE MORE MODEST.  
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ITS CHIEF GOALS ARE TO BE TO ENCOURAGE THE SCIENCE ESTABLISHMENT TO AIM FOR HIGHER QUALITY OF RESEARCH, ESPECIALLY BASIC RESEARCH AND TO PUT THESE MEANS AT THE SERVICE OF FRANCE'S CURRENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OBJECTIVES. AIGRAIN, WHO HIMSELF HEADED THE DGRST FROM 1968 TO 1973, HAS TOLD US ON SOCIAL OCCASIONS THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF PUTTING A LEADING SCIENTIST

AS THAT ORGANIZATION'S HEAD.

3. THE DGRST IS TO HAVE TWO NEW HIGH-LEVEL SCIENTIFIC COUNSELORS; ONE SPECIALIZED IN BIOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL QUESTIONS AND THE OTHER IN TECHNICAL FIELDS. IT IS ALSO EXPECTED THAT A SENIOR DIPLOMATIC COUNSELOR WILL JOIN THE ORGANIZATION A LITTLE LATER.

4. COMMENT: IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT OTHER NEW RESOURCES WILL BE GIVEN TO THE DGRST AND THE FRENCH SCIENCE ESTABLISHMENT IN GENERAL. THE OVERALL CIVILIAN SCIENCE BUDGET FOR "RESEARCH" HAS BEEN SHRINKING IN REAL TERMS FOR A LONG TIME AND WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY OTHER SENIOR FRENCH SCIENCE OFFICIALS OF A STAGNATION THEY ARE HARD PUT TO REMEDY.  
HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

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